February 1957 Vol. 7 - 2

Central States Convention
AUCTION SALE
PUBLIC AND MAIL BIDDING

We are preparing a very nice catalogue for this event. Not a "spectacular" but a lot of nice material -- something of interest for nearly everyone.

Some of the features are: Complete collection of U. S. Gold Dollars (no 1849 C Open Wreath); Entire date series of $3.00 Gold; Gem Proofs of 1875 and 1876! Other choice early and Proof U. S. Gold including a collection of ten different $50.00 Slugs, one an unlisted variety. These are just the rarities; there will be plenty of U. S. minor coins - some gem early Large Cents.

For the collector of Foreign coins, we offer the Frank Hernandez Collection of Dollars of the World. There are several thousand pieces, many rare and choice.

Also to be sold is a very choice lot of Canadian coins including the finest known 1921 Half Dollar, gem Unc. It will be a very diversified and interesting sale. Plan to be there! At least see that you get a catalogue! These will be sent only to our regular Auction List which is entirely separate from our Coins & Chatter mailing list. If you did not bid at one of our sales during 1956, you had better drop us a card to be sure you receive a catalogue.

CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED

We can still use a limited amount of choice U. S. minor and silver coins. If interested, please rush.

Deadline - - February 20th!

Coins of Bible Days

WIDOW'S MITE

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury and many that were rich cast in much.

"And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which makes a farthing. And He called unto Him His Disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which has cast into the treasury..."

(Mark 12:41-44)

V. Gd. to Fine.....$ 3.75
Fine 5.00
V. Fine 7.50

TRIBUTE PENNY

14-37 A. D. Silver Denarius
Laureated head of Tiberius.
Reverse: Livia seated.
Bible reference: Matthew 22:15-22

Ext. Fine $20.00
Very Fine 15.00

SHEKEL OF TYRE

Tyre Silver Shekel (Tetradrachm) 106-105 B. C. Head of god Melkarth. Rev: Eagle on rudder with inscription "Tyre the holy and inviolable." These are the coins referred to in the Bible as "thirty pieces of silver," for which Judas betrayed Christ. Matthew 27:5

Ext. Fine.....$42.50
Very Fine..... 35.00
Fine 27.50

FOREIGN SETS

CANADA

1949 Mint Set, Cent through Dollar, 6 pieces. Br. Unc.....$4.75
Same in plastic holder 6.25

* * *

1951 Mint Set, Cent through Dollar 7 pieces, Br. Unc.....$4.50

* * *

1953 Mint Set, Cent through Dollar 6 pieces, Br. Unc.....$4.35

CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES

1955 Proof Set, 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 Cents.
7 pcs. in leather plush-lined case.
Brill. Proofs $15.00

CYPRUS

1955 Proof Set, 3, 5, 25, 50, 100 Mils 5 pieces in leather case.
Brill. Proofs.....$12.50

GREAT BRITAIN

1953 Coronation Proof Set, Farthing through Crown. 10 pcs. leather case.
Brill. Proofs.....$12.50

* * *

Same, Unc. no case.....$ 4.65

GUERNSEY

1956 Proof Set, 3 Pence, 4 and 8 Doubles. 6 pcs. in leather case showing obverse and reverse.
Brill. Proofs.....$ 7.50

NEW ZEALAND

1953 Coronation Proof Set, 1/2 Penny through Crown. 9 pcs. leather case. A small issue.
Brill. Proofs.....$15.00

CHOICE SILVER DOLLARS

(Attributed according to Bolender)

1795 Flowing hair, 3 leaves under wing. B-5. V. Fine.....$50.00
1795 Bust type, B-15. V. Fine.45.00
1796 Lg. date, Small letters. B-5. Very Fine..... 50.00
1796 Similar, B-5a. Rarity 4. Very Fine plus.....60.00
1797 Stars 9x7 Large letters. Very Fine with sharp reverse..... 75.00
1798 Wide date, B-23a. Fine... 27.50
1798 Wide date, 13 arrows, B-24a. Choice Very Fine..... 35.00
1798 Close date, high 8, B-27. Very Fine.....32.50
1798 Close date, B-30, Rarity 5. Very Fine.....45.00
1798 Wide date, Abt. Finel.....20.00
1799 No berries, B-11b. V.Fine.37.50
1799 13 stars, Rev. B-12a. Ext. Fine..... 50.00
1799 Irregular date, 13 stars rev. B-14, Rarity 4. Ext. Fine..... 47.50
1799 Same, V. Fine..... 32.50
1799 Irregular date, reverse of 1798, B-15. Rarity 5. V.Fine.. 60.00
1799 Small berries, B-16a. Ext. Fine to Abt. Unc. Well struck.. 60.00
1799 Same, Choice V. Fine.... 35.00
1799 Large berries, B-17a, Rarity 4. Very Fine..... 35.00
1799 B-21, choice V. Fine..... 35.00
1799 (My selection) Fine-V.Fine.25.00
1800 Wide date, B-8. Choice Ext. Fine..... 45.00
1800 Wide date, low 8, B-10a. Very Fine..... 37.50
1800 R in Liberty double-cut, B-12. Fine.....25.00
1800 "Dotted Date," B-14. Fine to Very Fine..... 30.00
1800 T in United double-cut, B-16. Very Fine.....35.00
1800 B-16a. Very Fine.....35.00
1800 B-18. Very Fine.....32.50
1800 My selection, Fine-V.Fine 27.50
1801 Wide date, B-1a, Rarity 4. Very Fine.....37.50
1801 B-2. Choice V. Fine..... 37.50
1801 B-3. Very Fine.....37.50
1801 (My selection) Fine-V.F.. 27.50
1802 over 1, B-2. V.Fineplus...47.50
1802 over 1, wide small date, B-3. Very Fine.....45.00
1802 over 1, close date, B-4, Rarity 5. Choice V. Fine..... 45.00
1802 Perfect wide date, B-5. Rarity 6, choice Ext. Fine and well struck. Very rare..... 90.00
1802 Perfect close date, B-6. Choice Very Fine..... 35.00
1802 About Fine.....20.00
1802 Good-V. Good.....15.00
1803 Small 3, B-4. Very Fine and scarce..... 50.00
1803 Same, Fine-V. Fine..... 35.00
1803 Small 3, B-5, Rarity 5. Very Fine and rare..... 50.00
1803 Small 3, B-5a. Very rare, Very Fine..... 60.00
1803 Large 3, B-6. Choice Very Fine..... 37.50
1803 Large 3, B-6a, Rarity 4. Choice Very Fine..... 40.00
1803 Large 3. Fine-V. Fine... 30.00

Liberty Seated Dollars

1842 About Uncirculated..... 20.00
1842 V. Fine 12.50; Ex.Fine... 15.00
1843 Abt. Unc. choice.....25.00
1843 Very Fine plus.....12.50
1846 About Uncirculated..... 20.00
1846 V. Fine 12.50; Ex.Fine... 15.00
1846 - 0 Mint, Fine..... 12.50
1847 Ext. Fine..... 18.00
1849 Choice Ext. Fine.....20.00
1849 Ext. Fine, slight edge nick.10.00
1859 0 Mint, choice V.Fine.... 15.00
1860 0 Mint, Very Good..... 6.00
1868 Abt. Unc. scarce..... 25.00
1871 Very Good plus..... 5.00

PATTERN DOLLAR 1865, regular dies but with "In God We Trust" on reverse. Copper, A.W. 491. Beautiful brilliant toned Proof...65.00

MORGAN DOLLARS

This is one of the most interesting and abused of the United States series. While many are being offered, it is very difficult to put together a set in choice condition. We believe in the future of this series, and now, when they are cheap, is the time to buy.

The grading of these coins is quite controversial and we wish to clarify our classifications:

ABT. UNC.- Uncirculated coins which show the normal amount of abrasions from bag handling.

BRILL. UNC.- Selected coins that show very little evidence of bag handling.

CHOICE UNC.- Well struck and still better than preceding.

GEM UNC.- As near perfect as coins of this series are obtainable. Most all are rare in this condition.

1878 7 Feathers, Brill.Unc... 2.50
1878 7 Feathers, Abt.Unc.... 1.75
1878 8 Feathers, Brill.Unc... 4.00
1878 8 Feathers, Abt.Unc.... 2.75
1878 S Mint, Brill. Unc..... 2.50
1878 S Mint, Abt. Unc..... 1.75
1878 CC Mint, Choice Unc.... 3.50
1878 CC, Abt.Unc. 1.75; Unc.. 2.50
1879 Choice Unc:..... 3.00
1879 Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc... 2.50
1879 S, Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc. 2.50
1879 CC, Abt.Unc. brilliant.... 3.50
1879 0, Abt. Unc..... 2.75

NOTE:

We are paying 20% over 1957 Guide Book price for Brill. Proof Dollars, 1879 through 1903.

1880 Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc... 2.50
1880 S Mint, Choice Unc..... 3.00
1880 S, Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc. 2.50
1880 CC Mint, Gem Unc..... 7.50
1880 CC Mint, Choice Unc..... 6.00
1880 CC, Abt.Unc. 2.75;Br.Unc 5.00
1880 0, Abt.Unc. 2.50; Br.Unc. 3.75
1881 Choice Unc..... 3.00
1881 Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br. Unc... 2.50
1881 S Mint, Choice Unc..... 3.00
1881 S, Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc. 2.50
1881 CC Mint, Choice Unc..... 5.00
1881 CC, Abt.Unc. 2.75;Br.Unc.4.00
1881 0, Abt.Unc. 2.50; Br.Unc..3.50
1882 Choice Unc..... 3.00
1882 Abt. Unc. 1.75; Br. Unc.. 2.50
1882 S Mint, Choice Unc..... 3.00
1882 S, Abt.Unc. 1.75;Br.Unc.. 2.50
1882 CC Mint, Choice Unc..... 5.00
1882 CC, Abt. Unc.2.75;Br.Unc 3.75
1882 0, Abt. Unc.2.50;Br.Unc.. 3.75
1883 Choice Unc..... 3.00
1883 Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br. Unc... 2.50
1883 S, Abt.Unc. 2.75; Br.Unc. 4.50
1883 CC Mint, Choice Unc..... 5.00
1883 CC, Abt.Unc. 2.50; Br.Unc 3.75
1883 0 Mint, Choice Unc..... 4.75
1883 0, Abt.Unc. 2.50; Br.Unc. 3.50
1884 Br.Unc. 2.50;Choice Unc..3.00
1884 S, V.Fine 2.00;Abt.Unc.. 5.00
1884 CC Mint, Choice Unc..... 5.00
1884 CC, Abt.Unc. 2.50;Br.Unc.3.75
1884 0, Abt.Unc. 2.50;Br.Unc..3.50
1885 Choice Unc..... 3.00
1885 Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc... 2.50
1885 S, Abt.Unc. 2.00; Br.Unc. 3.50
1885 CC Mint, Gem Unc..... 7.50
1885 CC Mint, Choice Unc..... 6.00
1885 CC, Abt.Unc. 2.75; Br.Unc 3.75
1885 0 Mint, Choice Unc.....4.00
1885 0, Abt.Unc. 2.25; Br.Unc.. 3.00
1885 Abt. Unc. 1.75; Br. Unc... 2.50
1886 S, Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc.. 3.00
1887 Br.Unc. 2.50; Choice Unc.. 3.00
1887 S, Abt.Unc. 1.75; Br.Unc.. 3.00
1888 Br.Unc. 2.50; Choice Unc.. 3.00

Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back

WHEN THE HONOR OF COIN MINTAGE WAS EXPENSIVE

In the days of ancient Greece, the prevailing state of monetary control appointed certain rich individuals, whose money-bags bulged with lucre, the somewhat dubious distinction of "magistrates of coinage" which entitled them to accept the full privileges of supervising the metals for the issuance of coins for a year, and to bear the full cost of minting, with the government furnishing the silver and bronze for the complete production.

This select group, who were practically forced to accept these honorable occupations without compensation were allowed the right to engrave their names on the now famous silver pieces of Athens as their reward for public service.

Of the hundreds of names recorded by these coins, it is observed through inscriptions and other reliable sources of knowledge, that the first two magistrates were drawn from certain extremely rich families, while brothers, sons, in-laws, and even grandsons eventually got into the mint, but not through political influence -- just abundant wealth. This process of selection was called "liturgy" where a well-to-do citizen was often called upon to perform a certain civic duty. To accomplish each task usually involved much personal trouble as well as expense, but in the case of the mint, it gave two wealthy men the opportunity of handling the issue of silver for twelve months. In case the magistrates tired of the bestowed honor, they could transfer their duties to richer citizens only if they could prove themselves poorer in worldly goods.

The Greeks used a carefully organized system of mintage supervision where twelve members of a committee were appointed every year and entrusted with supreme control. Each member in rotation had their name impressed upon the silver each month along with the two annual magistrates when a new issue of specie was struck. This mint group was organized mainly to prevent the debasement of coinage, and it was through their efforts that the Greeks kept their money on a high level of purity most of the time.

There is evidence to prove that those found guilty of counterfeiting suffered the penalty of death. However, the existence of copper-plated coins struck from official dies, and bearing mint

WHEN THE HONOR OF COIN MINTAGE WAS EXPENSIVE

marks of magistrates in charge, suggested an attempt at either profit to the individual moneyer, or an effort to fulfill his or their duty at a lower cost.

Probably one of the most magnificent examples of Greek coin portraiture on a silver drachmas was that of a later period when a puppet ruler, Ariobarzanes Philoromaios, dubbed "Friend of Rome", a sort of rubberized Humpty-Dumpty who the Romans kept bouncing back on this throne after constant defeats by his enemies until Rome eventually tired of the process and forced the sorry Cappadocian monarch to give his kingship to his son. What makes Ariobarzanes' coins so outstanding is not only their artistic merit, but their truism which depicts the king from youth to old age, a rare procedure in those days when the groove-worn habit of coin portraiture followed the strict maturity type.

When Gelon, the Greek war strategist decisively defeated the expeditionary forces of Carthage before Himera, 280 B.C., it was his attractive wife Damarete who softened disaster for the Carthaginians by getting them lenient terms from her husband. As an appreciation of thanks, she received an enormous gold wreath weighing approximately 100 talents (a Greek talent weighed 58 pounds), worth $600,000. Rather than use this fabulous gift for herself, she immediately handed it over to the city mint, which in turn struck a series of silver pieces of remarkable beauty, and of a larger size not previously known, and weighing ten Attic drachmae. They were named Damareteis in the queen's honor, but strangely the coins bore no indications of the generous woman's name as donor.

The first official coinage in continental Greece was produced by Pheidon of Aegina who adopted the Babylonian system of weights and measures, state-guaranteeing his currency, and striking off Aeginatan "sea tortoises" which were the coins bear- the island's symbols. When numismatists refer to Greece, they think of the scores of little kingdoms and states embracing the ancient Mediterranean, the famed countries of Arcadia, Crete, Aeolis, Lesobos, Sparta, Thessaly -- all those whose spirit in producing reasonable metal money has contributed so much beauty and pleasure to our modern collectors

(Continued on next page)

PRICED TO SELL

FLYING EAGLE CENTS

	V.Gd.	Fine	V.Fine
1857	.90	2.00	3.50
1858 LL...	1.50	3.50	6.00
1858 SmL..	1.25	3.00	5.00

INDIAN HEAD CENTS

1865 Brill. Unc.....	6.25
1901 Brill. Unc.....	1.85
1904 Brill. Unc.....	1.75
1909 Brill. Unc.....	1.65

TWO CENT PIECES

1864 Brill. Unc.....	3.50
1864 Unc. part red	2.50
1864 Fine 60¢; V. Fine.....	1.00
1865 Brill. Unc.....	4.00
1865 Fine 75¢; Abt. Unc.....	2.00

THREE CENT NICKELS

1879 Brilliant Proof	7.75
1881 Brilliant Proof	6.50
1881 Brill. Unc.....	3.50
1882 Brilliant Proof	7.50
1883 Brilliant Proof	6.00
1884 Brilliant Proof	7.50
1885 Brilliant Proof	9.00
(Remember the Nickel)	
1886 Brilliant Proof	8.00
1888 Brilliant Proof	7.25
1888 Brill. Unc.....	4.75
1889 Brilliant Proof	7.50

THREE CENT SILVER

1851 Br. Unc.....	$ 7.50
1851 0, Fine 6.00: V. Fine....	9.00
1852 Br. Unc.....	5.25
1853 Br. Unc.....	5.00
1854 Br. Unc.....	10.00

HALF DIMES

1837 No stars, Abt. Unc.....	15.00
1873 S Mint, Br. Unc.....	4.50

U. S. DIMES

1875 Br. Unc.....	3.00
1907 0 Mint, Br. Unc.....	7.50
1912 D Mint, Br. Unc.....	10.00
1913 Br. Unc.....	4.75
1914 Br. Unc.....	5.00
1920 Br. Unc.....	4.75
1923 Br. Unc.....	4.00
1926 Br. Unc.....	2.95
1928 Br. Unc.....	2.50
1929 D Mint, Br. Unc.....	2.75

TWENTY CENT PIECES

1875 S Mint, Fine.....	7.50
1875 S, V.Gd. 4.75; Abt.Fine..	6.00
1876 V.Fine 12.50; Ext.Fine...	17.50

QUARTERS

1884 Rare, Br. Unc.....	25.00
1892 Brill. Unc.....	4.75
1908 0 Mint, Br. Unc.....	7.50
1909 Br. Unc.....	6.75
1916 D, Br. Unc. 5.00; Abt.Unc	1.75
1917 D Mint, type 2, Abt.Unc...	12.50

FOREIGN GOLD COINS

RUSSIA, Alex.III 5 Roubles 1888. Very Fine, SPECIAL 10.00
-- -- 10 Roubles 1889. Scarce Abt. Uncirculated..... 35.00
-- Same, 1894. Ext.Fine.... 32.50
-- Nicholas II 7 1/2 Roubles 1897. Scarce, V.Fine,SPECIAL 15.00
SAUDI-ARABIA, Guinea 1951. CW-15, struck at Philadelphia. Scarce, Unc. SPECIAL.....20.00
SERBIA, Milan as Prince, 20 Dinars 1879. Scarce, V. Fine..... 17.50
-- Milan as King, 20 Dinars 1882. Very Fine..... 17.50
SOUTH AFRICA, 1 Pond 1902. ZAR in monogram over date/EEN POND. CW-1. Ext. Fine but loop has been skillfully removed. Rare 50.00
SPAIN, Chas. & Johanna (1516-36) Ducat. Cross of Jerusalem/Arms of Spain. V. Fine, SPECIAL.. 12.50
-- Philip II (1556-98) 2 Escudos or 1/4 Doubloon. Cross and inscription/Arms of Spain. Very Fine, SPECIAL..... 20.00
-- Chas.III, 2 Escudos 1776. Very Fine.....17.50
-- -- 1 Escudo 1787, V.Fine 8.50
-- Same 1794. Ext.Fine..... 9.00
-- Isabelle II, 20 Reales 1861. Scarce denomination in gold. Uncirculated..... 7.50
-- Alfonso XIII, 20 Pesetas 1892. The rare type with child's curly head. The only year of this type; not to be confused with the baby head or the later boy's head. Until recently, unpublished. Unc.... 45.00
-- -- 20 Pesetas 1899. Boy's head. Abt. Uncirculated.....15.00
-- -- 20 Pesetas 1904. Military bust, CW-1. Abt. Uncirculated. (Cat. $100.00)..... 50.00
SWEDEN, Oscar II, 20 Kroner 1889. Uncirculated..... 20.00
-- -- 5 Kroner 1894-95-99, Uncirculated, each..... 5.00
-- Same, 1901. Unc.SPECIAL. 4.50
-- Gustavus V, 5 Kroner 1920. CW-20. Uncirculated..... 6.00
SWITZERLAND, 20 Francs 1930. CW-2. Uncirculated.....12.50
SYRIA, 1 Pound 1950. CW-17 Uncirculated.....18.50
-- 1/2 Pound 1950. CW-18 Uncirculated.....10.00
TUNIS, 20 Francs 1904. CW-1 About Uncirculated.....15.00
-- 100 Francs 1930. New standard CW-8. Unc. (Cat. 60.00) SPECIAL.....20.00
VATICAN CITY, Pope Pius IX, 20 Lire 1866. Robed bust. V.F. 16.00
-- Same, 1867. V. Fine..... 16.00
-- Pope Pius XII, 100 Lire 1950. Holy Year, only date of this type. CW-48. Uncirculated.....20.00
VENICE, (1631-55) Venetian Ducat. Fine to V. Fine, SPECIAL..... 9.00
YUGOSLAVIA, Alex. I, 20 Dinars 1925. CW-1, only date issued. Very scarce, Unc.....25.00

WESTPHALIA

ONE BILLION MARK
(Illustration half size)

Westphalia 1923, One Billion Marks The largest denomination ever issued. Obverse - Head of Stein. This was an official coinage. Silver 60mm, rare.
About Unc.....$25.00

COLLECTION
DOLLARS OF THE WORLD

25 Completely different (types or countries) full Crown or Dollar size foreign silver coins. Classified. A fine lot for the beginner, or good trading stock.

V. Fine to Unc.....$ 35.00

* * * *

35 Completely different. A nice collection.
V. Fine to Unc.....$50.00

WHEN THE HONOR OF COIN MINTAGE WAS EXPENSIVE
(Continued)

of the remarkable past.

The golden Staters of Macedonia minted by Alexander the Great, portraying the standard head of Athena, are classed as some of the most beautiful of all Greek coins. But ranked as No. 1 for sheer magnificence according to many experts, are the silver Dekadrachmas containing the head of Persephone. This lady, spouse of Pluto, and classed as the queen of the Underworld, is encircled by four dolphins on the obverse, while

WHEN THE HONOR OF COIN MINTAGE WAS EXPENSIVE

on the reverse a charioteer whips four beautiful horses drawing the victory vehicle, and above him flies a winged Nike, known as the goddess of victory. At the bottom of the reverse is a pair of greaves, a cuirass, and helmet.

In early Solonian times the Athenian public mint operated in a temple dedicated to a hero called the "Crown-Bearer." Circulating along with the regular coinage was money known as "Fiat" made out of various types of material but possessing no intrinsic value. Leather money also found its way into the marts, and tin coins flourished under the dictator Dionysius who forced the populace to accept them as Tetradrachmas while they were worth but a Drachmas.

To give one a better idea what money would buy in those days, an ox cost five Drachmas, a sheep one; expensive wine a Mina A Amphoreus, a loaf of bread an Obol; and a fine horse was exchanged for 50 Darics. A Daric was Persian Gold piece worth 20 Drachmas. The Drachma was the most common item of barter.

One of the rarest and most valuable of all Greek coinage is a Dekadrachm of Berenice II (Egypt 258-247) which is strikingly superb in every detail. On the obverse is the bust of Berenice facing right wearing a diadem necklace and veil within a circle of dots. The reverse possesses her name, a cornucopiae bound with fillet, and in the field are an E and stars enclosed in a circle of dots. One uncirculated specimen sold over thirty years ago for $2,255. Fortunately for collectors all the Greek specie aren't in this price range. On the river bank of the Yugoslav river during World War 11, a hidden treasure of Greek and Roman currency was accidently discovered and this produced a new supply of the scarcer coins for the numismatic world, eliminating scarcity and making them more reasonably priced -- a real boon to the hobbyist of moderate means.

The coins of all ancient kingdoms were more or less standarized, interchangeable to a certain degree, but for down-right trust-worthiness and sheer honesty, those of Corinth and Athens stood head and shoulders above the rest and were readily accepted without question for their exact weight and purity of metal.

-- Clarence M. Fink